

STATE BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

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MINUTES

State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind
BOARD MEETING
March 21, 2008

Location: State Dept. Consumer Affairs
1625 North Market Blvd., Suite S-202
Sacramento, CA 95834

Board Members Present

Jeff Neidich, President
Allan Brenner
Tony Candela
Tom Scott, Vice-President
Judy Karau, Secretary

Board Staff Present

Antonette Sorrick, Executive Officer
Albert Balingit, Staff Legal Counsel
Susan Cox, Executive Assistant

Guests

Scott Reid, Chief Deputy Director, Dept. Consumer Affairs
Cindy Kanemoto, DCA Strategic Development Division
Spencer Walker, Sr. Advisor to the Director, Dept. Consumer Affairs
Dan Kysor, Governmental Affairs Director, CA Council for the Blind
Ann Kysor, President, Guide Users of California
Cynthia Dines, Manager, Budget Office, Dept. Consumer Affairs
Cindy Rust, Budget Analyst, Dept. Consumer Affairs
Javier Gonzales, Assistant to the Senior Advisor to the Director, Dept. Consumer Affairs
Sherrill Neidich

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

President Neidich called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM and welcomed the attendees. Judy Karau took roll call. Five members were present. A quorum was set to conduct the meeting.

2. President's Welcome

President Neidich introduced the board members and the newly appointed Executive Officer, Antonette Sorrick.

3. Agenda item 3 "Recognition of Allan Brenner" was moved to the end of the meeting

4. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes December 6, 2007

Jeff Neidich recommended a motion to approve the December 6, 2007 minutes. Tom Scott moved to approve the minutes and Tony Candela seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

5. Strategic Plan: What the Board is Working on Now and Where the Board is Going in the Future

Antonette Sorrick reviewed the President's current goals on Strategic Planning.

Tony Candela read through the Board's current Strategic Plan including:

1. Enhance consumer access to the board and organizations in guide dog industry in California
2. Public policy that involves consumer protection and enforcement on regulation of laws
3. Organizational effectiveness

Tony Candela opened the discussion for audience participation for feedback on what the Board should be doing.

Dan Kysor stated that the Board should be involved in advocacy, more standardized oversight of service animals in California, collect out-of-state license fees, and standardized guide dog user training.

Ann Kysor stated that there was a lack of understanding among O&M professionals and guide dog users on the use of guide dogs

Jeff Neidich stated that the board anticipates strategic plan workshops in the future.

Cindy Kanemoto – Strategic Planning Process for the Board

Cindy Kanemoto from the SOLID unit at DCA discussed the strategic planning process, starting with having the Board develop a mission and vision statement at their next meeting.

Antonette recommended that the Board start developing the vision and mission statement at its June, 2008, meeting and at its goals and objectives at its September, 2008 meeting.

Tom Scott recommended that stakeholders be involved in the strategic planning process. Cindy Kanemoto agreed to develop an intake form for interviewing stakeholder's questions on the Strategic Planning process.

Tony Candela motioned to proceed with the strategic planning process and for it to be guided by Cindy Kanemoto. Tom Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Establishing Standing Committees

Tom Scott made a motion to create a standing Legislative Regulatory and Statutory Committee. Tony Candela seconded the motion. Motion passed. Tom Scott volunteered to be the Chair for the Legislative Regulatory and Statutory Committee. Judy Kararu will also serve in the committee.

Tom Scott made a motion to create an Outreach and Education Committee. Tony Candela seconded the motion. Motion was passed. Jeff Neidich and Tony Candela will be committee members for the Outreach and Education Committee. Tony will serve as Chair of the Committee.

7. Executive Officer Report – Antonette Sorrick

Outreach Report

- a. Anthony Candela, Jeff Neidich, and Antonette met with Jeff Thom (President, California Council of the Blind (CCB)), to discuss how the board could work with CCB to meet common goals and objectives.
- b. Jeff Neidich, Antonette and Nancy Gardner, CEO for Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael, discussed the Board's budget fee proposal regarding adoption of the legal opinion, the reduction in their renewal fee, and the Board's goal of building better relationships with all schools.
- c. Jeff and Antonette also attended the CA Canine Dogs with Jobs Exhibit at the California Museum.

Budget Report

Projection figures - Projected budget to year end \$159,072, unencumbered balance is \$6,037 or 3.66% surplus deficit.

Cynthia Dines from the DCA budget office, explained the surplus deficit and budget projection appropriations

Proposed Campus Payment Agreement

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. (GDB), has agreed to pay annual renewals to include Oregon campus expenses until FY 2008-2009.

The draft letter agreement proposing the Oregon Campus annual renewal fee payments was read and the legal opinion was moved in the agenda to be addressed.

Albert Balingit advised that the board not take legal action to collect fees.

Guide Dogs for the Blind - Oregon Campus, Legal Opinion

Allan Brenner made a motion to accept Albert Balingit's legal opinion pertaining to the Oregon Campus. Tom Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A proposal was made to amend the draft letter regarding the payment agreement, regarding the Oregon Campus to reflect payment receipt in June 2008 for fiscal year 06-07 and payment in June 2009 for fiscal year 07-08.

It was proposed that the draft letter be amended to include that the Board adopt the legal opinion of Albert Balingit. Tony Candela made the motion to accept the draft letter. Tom Scott seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

AB 2276 (Fuentes)

AB 2276 (Fuentes) was presented to the Board by Antonette Sorrick. This bill would extend the sunset review date from July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2016 and repeal it on July 1, 2017. Tony motioned to refer this bill to the Legislative Regulatory and Statutory Committee to make a statement to be in support of the bill. The motion was amended and made by Allen Brenner to give the Legislative Regulatory and Statutory Committee the authority to speak on behalf of the Board on the issue. Tony Candela seconded the motion. Motion passed. The Board asked Antonette to contact Assembly Member Fuentes' office to get more information on AB 2276 and report back to Judy Karau and Tom Scott.

Survey

The Board had discussed the prospects of conducting a survey of guide dog handlers. Questions on goals and objectives of the survey had not been finalized. Antonette recommended to the Board to delegate authority to her to form a task force of school representatives to establish survey questions. The Board did not accept the recommendation and tabled the discussion until the strategic planning meeting.

Exam Update

On February 4, 2008, five apprentices took the written exam in Sacramento. All five candidates passed the exam. Four of the five apprentices took the practical/oral exams and all four candidates passed. New wallet licenses will be issued to the new instructors in addition to wall certificates.

Staff Update

Susan Cox was hired as Executive Assistant, by the Guide Dog Board on March 10, 2008. She filled the vacancy left by Esterly Gilmore.

School Inspection Update

Antonette Sorrick and Jane Brackman will conduct an inspection of Guide Dogs of America in Sylmar on April 18, 2008. Report of inspection will be given at the next Board meeting.

DCA Report

DCA appointed Kathy Salman as the new chief of the Internal Audits Office. Spencer Walker filled Antonette Sorrick's former position as liaison to all the DCA boards and will be the new Senior Advisor to the Director.

Antonette Sorrick presented the newly designed Guide Dog Board Web site. The new site has more user-friendly navigation and useful information for both consumers and licensees.

8. DCA Board Conference - Sarah Boire

The Director of Consumer Affairs has requested all regulatory boards and bureaus to meet during the week of November 17, 2008, at the Westin LAX hotel in Los Angeles. The Board meeting would be scheduled for the slot available on November 18-19, 2008 at the Westin LAX hotel. Antonette proposed having Guide Dog Day at this event. Ann Kysor from the Guide Dog Users of California agreed to participate in the Guide Dog Day and the Board meeting.

9. Eye Dog Foundation (EDF)

Antonette referred the Board to the fact sheet given and authored by the EDF. The Attorney General's Office was invited to speak about EDF, but did not respond to the invitation. There was no new information to provide on this issue.

10. Statutory and Regulatory Report

Three school renewal fee proposals were presented to the Board. Tony Candela moved that the Statutory and Regulatory Subcommittee continue to work on this issue. Judy Karau seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Three regulatory changes were presented for Division 22 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (Sections 2250, 2274 and 2277). Tony Candela motioned to approve the regulations as written. Allan Brenner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Albert Balingit agreed per request from Dan Kysor to investigate if there is a federal or state regulation that covers tuberculosis.

11. Meeting Calendar and Location

Calendar was amended as follows:

- * June 9, 2008 at Guide Dogs of America
- * September 25-26, 2008 at the Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.
- * November 18-19, 2008 at the DCA Board Conference
- * December 4, 2008 at the Guide Dogs of the Desert International will be postponed until 2009.

12. Recognition of Allan Brenner for his years of service on the Board

Scott Reid, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs, read the certificate of appreciation on behalf of Director Carrie Lopez. Board members offered additional appreciation for Allan's years of service.

13. Public Comment – Attached letters

Ann Kysor, Guide Dog Users of California
Allan Brenner, Board Member
Mitch Pomerantz, American Council for the Blind

14. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Antonette Sorrick, Executive Officer